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# Hoping to witness an Obama victory, Texas voter flies to Chicago

## Houston resident travels to support favored candidate

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CHICAGO — Carol Reed Bailey turned 51 on Monday, so she decided to give herself the best birthday gift she could dream of: a trip to Chicago to see Sen. Barack Obama on Election Day.

"I want to see a black man become president," she said as she lugged her suitcase onto a Red Line subway train in downtown Chicago. "I want to tell my grandchildren about it."

Bailey, a black woman from Houston, arrived mid-afternoon by herself Monday and set out to find her hotel. The most important thing on her mind was finding a way to get tickets for Tuesday's election party in Grant Park, a downtown park where Obama will give either his concession or victory speech.

"Hopefully I can get some pictures and shake Obama's hand or get me a picture with him or somebody," she said. "At least to know I was here when this went down because this is surely history."

Bailey's husband Todd said, from their Houston home, that his wife did not have much interest in politics until they married 10 years ago. She had never voted, so Todd helped her register for the first time.

"I got her to start voting, and she loves it now," he said. "Since we have Barack Obama running for president, she's just so ecstatic that she wants to be there to see this historic moment."

Todd Bailey said he was a little uneasy about his wife traveling to Chicago alone, but he knew she could take care of herself.

"I'm very proud of her," he said. "That's a part of me up there, and it's a beautiful thing. I'm just so excited that my stomach is in knots, and I know she's going to call me when she's [at the speech] tomorrow evening."

Carol Reed Bailey cast her vote on the first day of early voting. She said she was the second person in line, and she's positive Obama will win.

"I didn't make the trip to see a loss," she said. "I really want to see this happen. I thought the world might come to an end before it ever happened."

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